

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

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O 062129Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1273

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 3747

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EC, MARR

SUBJ: TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR MILITARY LIAISON OFFICE

REF: STATE 119116

1. I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THE TERMS OF REFERENCE DOD HAS PROPOSED FOR THE "MILITARY ASSISTANCE GROUP" FOR ECUADOR. MY GENERAL AND SPECIFIC COMMENTS FOLLOW BELOW.

2. GENERAL COMMENTS.

A. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE FORTHCOMING DOD RESPONSE. WITH ONE EXCEPTION, IT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT MY VIEWS ON THE NATURE AND FORM OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE PRESENCE HERE. PLEASE EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO DOD.

B. SUBJECT TO THE SPECIFIC COMMENTS WHICH FOLLOW BELOW IN 3, I CONCUR IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MILITARY LIAISON OFFICE HERE. IT WILL BE HOUSED IN THE CHANCERY. ITS OFFICERS WILL BE ACCREDITED AS ATTACHES WITH A NOTATION REFLECTING THEIR GENERAL DUTIES IN THE LIAISON OFFICE. NON-OFFICER PERSONNEL WILL BE ACCREDITED AS ASSISTANTS FOR PURPOSES OF FREE ENTRY, PRIVILEGES, ETC. THE FOREIGN OFFICE JUNE 5 INFORMALLY AGREED TO THIS PROCEDURE. NO MEMBER OF THE LIAISON OFFICE WILL BE CARRIED ON THE DIPLOMATIC LIST.

C. THE PROPOSAL TO ASSIGN A SENIOR ARMY LT. COL. (O-5) AS INITIAL HEAD OF THE LIAISON OFFICE HAD ITS ORIGIN IN MY DESIRE TO HAVE THE OFFICE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE DAO. SINCE I NOW AGREE TO ITS SEPARATE ESTABLISH-
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MENT, I AM PREPARED TO ACCEPT AN ARMY COLONEL (O-6) IF

DOD PREFERS ON THE CONDITION THAT HE NOT HAVE A DATE OF RANK SENIOR TO THAT OF COL. STANLEY P. CONVERSE, WHO WILL BECOME ARMATT O/A JULY 15 AND DATT IN SEPTEMBER.

D. THE LIAISON OFFICE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED EFFECTIVE JULY 15, 1974. (FYI, THIS IS APPROXIMATE DATE ON WHICH PRESENT DATT LEAVES AND NAVATT BECOMES DATT FOR APPROXIMATELY THREE MONTHS.)

E. I CONCUR IN THE COMPOSITION AND STAFFING OF THE PROPOSED OFFICE ON THE UNDERSTANDING, AS SPECIFIED PARA 5 REFTEL, THAT THE TWO POSITIONS INDICATED WILL NOT BE FILLED UNTIL I HAVE SPECIFICALLY AGREED.

F. AGREE THAT DEPARTMENT'S REPLY SHOULD STRESS THE NECESSITY OF THE LIAISON OFFICE TAKING POLICY GUIDANCE FROM ME AND MAINTAINING A LOW POSTURE.

3. SPECIFIC COMMENTS. (RESPONSE KEYED TO PARAGRAPHS IN REFTEL)

A. 4.A. THE NAME OF THE OFFICE SHOULD BE "US MILITARY LIAISON OFFICE". THE PROPOSED NAME OF "ECUADOR-US MILITARY LIAISON OFFICE" SUGGESTS A JOINT US/ECUADOREAN RELATIONSHIP SIMILAR TO A MILITARY GROUP, WHICH WOULD NOT BE VIEWED FAVORABLY BY THE GOE.

B. 4.E.V. THE WORDS "AS APPROPRIATE" APPEARING AT THE END OF THIS SENTENCE MUST BE DELETED. I WILL EXPECT AND INSIST THAT I BE KEPT INFORMED ON ALL MATTERS, NOT JUST THOSE DEEMED "APPROPRIATE" BY THE CHIEF, LIAISON OFFICE.

C 4.G.I. DELETE "THE HOST GOVERNMENT,". THERE IS AT THIS JUNCTURE NO PROSPECT THAT ANY ADMINISTRATIVE AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT FOR THE LIAISON OFFICE WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE GOE. WE CAN ADDRESS THIS SUBJECT IN THE REVIEW TO TAKE PLACE IN 1974 (VIDE 4.E.IV.) IN THE LIGHT OF THE SITUATION THEN OBTAINING.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST I BE PROMPTLY ADVISED IF STATE/DOD AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED ALONG FOREGOING LINES. IF IT CAN, I WILL NEED TO DISCUSS THIS PROMOTLY WITH MINDEF ALMEIDA TO OBTAIN HIS INFORMAL ASSENT BEFORE ESTABLISHING LIAISON OFFICE.

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